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CENTRAL BANK OF LIBERIA		
MARKET BUYING AND SELLING RATES LIBERIAN DOLLARS PER US DOLLAR		
DATE	BUYING	SELLING
TUESDAY, JANUARY 10, 2023	L\$153.8109/US\$1.00	L\$155.4993US\$1.00

These are indicative rates based on results of daily surveys of foreign exchange market in Monrovia and selected cities of Liberia. These rates are collected from the Central bank, commercial banks, parallel market and the license forex bureaux. The rates are not set by the Central Bank of Liberia.
Source: Research, Policy and Planning Department, CBL.

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P11

MOH head of vaccines Adolphus Clark

BCG FOR TUBERCULOSIS VACCINE
PEDIATRIC / ADOLESCENT

Liberia: Newborn babies at risk?

Hospitals claim BCG vaccine shortage, but health authorities say vaccines are here

Cllr. Gongloe

The late Dr. Jackson Fiah Doe

Gongloe to fulfil Jackson Doe's dream

Christmas Season na Come!!!

Watch out for plenty good good things from **y'ello** Santa this year!



Continental News

Dozens kidnapped waiting for train in Nigeria

At least 32 people have been abducted at a train station in Edo state, southern Nigeria, the authorities say. Among those taken were station staff and passengers waiting for a train. The security forces, helped

security is a major campaign issue. Reports say that on Saturday a large number of gunmen, armed with AK-47s, shot in the air as they entered the station in Igueben before seizing the travellers and staff and taking them to a nearby forest.

The kidnappers also released two children as it was "believed that they felt the children will slow down their movements", a local resident is quoted by the Vanguard newspaper as saying.

Edo state government spokesperson Chris Osa Nehikhare said that many people had started using the train as the local road had become "a no-go area, with huge ransoms being collected from families of [kidnap] victims". Incidents of kidnapping for ransom, as well as gunmen targeting communities for political reasons, have been on the rise in recent years in Nigeria.

In December, a major rail service linking the capital, Abuja, with the northern city of Kaduna, resumed nine months after at least nine passengers died during a gun attack on the train line. Many others were taken away as hostages and the last one was released in October.

Insecurity is one of the key campaign issues ahead of Nigeria's general elections in February when a successor to President Muhammadu Buhari will be chosen. BBC



People had switched to travelling on trains as some highways had become unsafe

by local hunters, have launched a search-and-rescue operation for the victims. There have been increasing concerns about attacks in the country. The latest incident comes in the month before a presidential election where

Some of those who managed to flee sustained bullet wounds, eyewitnesses have been quoted as saying. One woman with a baby also reportedly escaped and found her way to a neighbouring community where she has been rescued.

Sudan's Military Leader Reiterates Vow to Restore Civilian Rule

Three days of talks between Sudan's military and civilian leaders continued Monday, with the aim of reaching a final deal on governing during a two-year transition to elections

Sudan's ruling military has vowed the army will come under civilian authority as the two sides hammer out a final agreement.

The spokesman for the civilian side, Khalid Omer Yousif, addressed the media Monday at a press conference in Khartoum broadcast by the state-run Sudan News Agency.

He said this was an opportunity for all Sudanese to engage and cooperate with the regional and international community to achieve the high national interests of the country.

At a launch of the final phase of the political process Sunday, Sudan's army chief General Abdel Fattah al-Burhan repeated the military's vow to place itself under a civilian government. His speech was also broadcast by Sudan's state news agency.

He said it is the military's conviction that soon there will be a true civilian government established in Sudan, one that will fulfill the aspirations and ambitions of the Sudanese people towards a free, just, and peaceful state.

The army chief gave no details on when the military would step aside but said it would keep its word to leave politics. He also applauded efforts by regional and international partners to help end Sudan's political crisis.

Al-Burhan overthrew a transitional, civilian government led by former Prime Minister

Abdallah Hamdok in October 2021, citing a lack of attention to alleged threats.

The coup came just weeks before the military was to hand power to civilian authorities, sparking international condemnation and a withdrawal of foreign aid. Sudan's pro-democracy groups have staged near weekly protests ever since, demanding the military step down. Security forces have frequently clashed with the protesters, leaving scores dead — almost all of them protesters. VOA



Sudan's military leader General Abdel Fattah al-Burhan stands at the podium during a ceremony to sign a framework agreement between military rulers and civilian powers in Khartoum

CEO of South Africa's State-owned Power Company Eskom Allegedly Poisoned

South African police are investigating allegations by the outgoing head of state-owned power company Eskom that he was poisoned.

Andre de Ruyter alleges someone put cyanide in his coffee a day after he tendered his resignation. De Ruyter has been criticized for failing to end widespread graft in the company that fueled the worst blackouts in South Africa's history.

Debt-ridden Eskom says due to the police investigation, it cannot comment on de Ruyter's claim that someone tried to poison him at his Johannesburg office on December 13.

De Ruyter submitted his resignation shortly after Minerals and Energy Minister Gwede Mantashe criticized Eskom's management, saying, "Eskom by not attending to load-shedding is actively agitating for the overthrow of the state."

Malan says the union doesn't believe Mantashe's accusation because he says de Ruyter always put Eskom first and did his best.

Malan added that due to political interference in South Africa's state-owned enterprises, it's almost impossible for any CEO to conduct business independently. "It's terribly difficult to actually judge the extent to which he was effective," Malan said. "There are certain things we can point to. We do



Andre de Ruyter, Group Chief Executive of state-owned power utility Eskom speaks during a media briefing in Johannesburg

The story broke over the weekend with de Ruyter telling energy analyst and editor of EE Business Intelligence Chris Yelland that after drinking the coffee, he became weak, dizzy and confused, and started vomiting.

De Ruyter went to a doctor and tests were conducted.

South Africa's minister of public enterprises, Pravin Gordhan, says the alleged attempt on de Ruyter's life will be thoroughly investigated and those responsible will be charged. Morne Malan, the head of communications at Solidarity, a union with 6,000 members at Eskom, believes the alleged poisoning was linked to de Ruyter's fight against corruption.

"All the indications at the moment are that he was in fact poisoned based on the toxicology report," Malan said. "From our understanding, normal cyanide levels for a human being would be around 15 milligrams per liter of blood whereas Andre de Ruyter's was at over 40 milligrams per liter."

believe he did a relatively good job at alleviating Eskom's debt load. The fact of the matter is that load-shedding was significantly worse last year than ever before. We did have over 200 days of load-shedding in 2022."

Across the country, rolling power cuts known as load-shedding were first implemented by Eskom around 2008 due to demand outstripping supply. In 2022, South Africa experienced blackouts for up to 10 hours a day at times.

Energy analysts blame corruption, crippling debt, lack of maintenance of aging coal-powered plants, and the inability to procure new plants and renewable energy sources in a timely manner as reasons for the demise of the once world-class power utility.

Meanwhile, the National Union of Metalworkers of South Africa has refused to comment on the poisoning investigation, referring instead to a statement issued in December. It said it is overjoyed by de Ruyter's resignation and called him the worst CEO in the history of Eskom. VOA

EDITORIAL

Arms discovery at Freeport is scaring

THE DISCOVERY OF cache of high-caliber automatic military weapons stacked in a container and shipped to Liberia is worrisome and scary. Even of great concern is that a significant quantity of the arms had been offloaded and stored at a private residence in Brewerville outside Monrovia before the discovery was made at the Freeport, heightening suspicion about the quantity of weapons that might already be hidden at various locations across the country.

THAT THE HUGE cache of arms was packaged, destined for Liberia, and arrived at the Freeport and offloaded before the Joint Security of this country received intelligence, clearly indicates the extent of vulnerability of the state.

THE DISCOVERY COMES barely nine months to the general and presidential elections in October. This speaks volumes, especially since state security forces are already making arrests and identifying suspects. What could be the motive behind the importation of sophisticated military weapons to a country that had suffered 14 years of bloody civil war that left over 200,000 people killed, including women and children. Infrastructure worth millions of dollars were destroyed, thousands of others displaced and subjected to refugee life in other countries. Is someone contemplating on reverting this country to the dark days?

THE ARMS CACHE followed the shipment of a 40-ft. container of cocaine valued at US\$100 million last year that was said to have been in transit via the very Freeport of Monrovia. This container was cleared from the Freeport and taken to TRH warehouse in Topoe Village along the Japanese Freeway before Liberian Joint Security was informed by the United States Embassy near Monrovia.

WE DEMAND AN open investigation into the arms discovery at the Freeport. Instigators should get to the bottom of what has the potential to destabilize the peace of Liberia. They should remain professional and the entire exercise should be void of political manipulation.

WE ARE VIVIDLY reminded of the Samuel Doe era when opposition politicians were falsely implicated in a bid to get them out of the race. These are electioneering period and we hope this would not be the case in the ongoing investigation.

NEWS ABOUT MILITARY weapons being discovered at our major commercial port is not good for the economy. This information creates insecurity and drives away potential investors. It is not just about the suspects already identified and arrested, but the actual motive for the importation.

ALL THOSE BEHIND this for whatever intention should be reminded that besides pandemics, the world is conflict-wearied, particularly with the Russia-Ukraine war that is taken a huge toll not only on Europe and the West but Africa. There are military coups in neighboring Guinea, Mali and Burkina Faso, respectively. These arms takeovers are gradually destabilizing West Africa with serious instability in Nigeria.

MORE THAN A decade ago, the United Nations invested millions in Liberia with the largest peacekeeping mission of 15,000 troops that disarmed and demobilized rebel forces leading to holding of democratic elections and return to civilian administration. The least the international community would like to hear is that Liberia is slipping back to chaos. If we were to revert to this route again as the discovery of arms seems to indicate, let us rest assured that we will be on our own! No country would like to send her sons and daughters here again to die for our selfish greed and foolishness.

COMMENTARY

By Jayati Ghosh

Financial Deglobalization Must Come Next

NEW DELHI - After four decades of fostering integration through trade and finance, the global economy has begun a painful process of fragmentation. Initially driven by wealthy countries - namely, the United States under former President Donald Trump and the United Kingdom following the Brexit referendum - several geopolitical forces have combined to accelerate the shift toward deglobalization.

The fracturing of global trade could herald the fragmentation of international capital markets. COVID-19-related lockdowns and closures have disrupted global supply chains and shut down major production centers, most notably in China. Similarly, the war in Ukraine has altered trade routes and forced Western countries to find alternative suppliers of major commodities like oil, gas, wheat, and fertilizers. Western-led sanctions on Russia have further impeded trade and sharply increased food and energy prices.

But while global trade could become even more fragmented if major economies adopt protectionist policies such as border carbon taxes, financial markets remain strongly integrated. Cross-border capital flows are still largely unregulated and more volatile than ever. It's a combination that is currently proving to be lethal for many low- and middle-income countries.

The liberalization of capital accounts in these countries in the 1990s has led to large inflows of "hot money": private financial capital driven not so much by developing countries' economic outlook as by developed countries' macroeconomic policies. In the years following the 2008 global financial crisis, capital flows to emerging and "frontier" markets surged as prolonged monetary expansion by developed countries' central banks fueled asset bubbles. Financial agents borrowed cheap in dollars and either lent in foreign currency to developing countries or invested in local currency markets. Capital inflows triggered higher interest-rate spreads and currency appreciation, making carry trades particularly lucrative - at least for a while.

Over the years, the inflows of hot money, often held as reserves and invested in low-return dollar assets, have made emerging and developing economies vulnerable to capital flight. This has had a dampening effect on these countries' fiscal policies, as rising seigniorage costs have stoked fears of credit-rating downgrades.

The rapid interest-rate hikes in the US and the European Union have compounded low- and middle-income countries' external debt burdens, forcing them to raise interest rates even more aggressively than advanced economies and hindering their recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic. Moreover, these dramatic rate hikes have not prevented fickle foreign investors from fleeing, causing emerging-market currencies to depreciate and severely

damaging labor markets and growth prospects.

But the developed countries' combination of higher interest rates and fiscal consolidation is counterproductive, as it risks causing recessions without addressing the real forces behind surging inflation. As a result of following the US Federal Reserve's lead, many low- and middle-income countries already face severe stagflation - and integration with global finance is worsening their economic woes.

Instead of mimicking developed countries' ineffective approach, developing and emerging countries must introduce policies tailored to their specific needs and political economies. Such policies include controlling the prices of key commodities, increasing domestic production to alleviate critical shortages, and ensuring social protections for the newly unemployed and those who are worst affected by high inflation.

Above all, developing countries must introduce more effective capital controls. Imposing constraints on volatile portfolio flows, particularly those that contribute to currency depreciation, is crucial to mitigating the risks associated with financial globalization. Moreover, just as several developing countries have explicitly or implicitly defied the US-led trade sanctions on Russia, policymakers must break free from the US-dominated international financial system, especially dollar swaps and repo markets.

Given that most developing countries cannot afford to act on their own, regional cooperation is also critical. The United Nations Conference on Trade and Development's annual report mentions several innovative forms of finance and exchange payments that Global South countries could implement to counter advanced economies' financial dominance, including "South-South clearing unions."

If trade among Global South economies grows quickly, the report notes, the flows will be settled in their own currencies or through regional currency mechanisms. Such mechanisms could also help negotiate debt-restructuring deals, provide financial insurance at the regional level, and even establish stabilization funds to improve countries' foreign-asset positions.

Financial globalization was supposed to usher in an era of robust growth and fiscal stability in the developing world. It ended up doing the opposite. Now, to restore their economic viability, low- and middle-income countries must make the most of deglobalization and embrace the fragmentation of international capital markets.

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OP-ED

By Pinelopi Koujianou Goldberg

America Should Rethink Its Economic War on China

NEW HAVEN - Just days before the White House released the United States’ new National Security Strategy in October, President Joe Biden’s administration announced sweeping export restrictions aimed at stopping China from advancing technologically. “The world is changing,” the National Security Strategy observes - and the US is evidently responding by all but declaring economic war on China, using trade as its primary weapon.

Yet this development received scant mainstream media coverage. As Edward Luce of the Financial Times notes, “a superpower declared war on a great power and nobody noticed.” This is perhaps not surprising, given the fickleness of the news cycle and the competing spectacles of Twitter layoffs and cryptocurrency meltdowns. But the new US policy toward China will be far more consequential than either of those stories.

Consider US National Security Adviser Jake Sullivan’s rather sobering suggestion, in September, that it is no longer enough for the world’s largest economy simply to outcompete its economic rivals through technological innovation. The implication is that America must do whatever it can to hold those rivals back, and to inflict as much economic pain on them as possible. Yet this outlook clearly signals weakness. It is an admission that policies aimed at increasing America’s own economic competitiveness may have only limited success.

To be sure, the new export restrictions are being justified in the name of national security, to address the military-civilian fusion that China practices and the growing significance of “dual-use goods” (technologies that are designed for commercial purposes but have military applications). National security is always an appealing rationale, which is probably why the new US economic policies vis-à-vis China have met with bipartisan approval. Nonetheless, the strategy is deeply problematic.

First, while the national-security argument is easy to make, it is difficult to verify. Precisely such arguments led to a long and costly war in Iraq, which continued well after the war’s stated rationale - the alleged threat of Iraqi weapons of mass destruction - had been proven to be baseless. While China has certainly changed over the past ten years, it is not Russia. It is excessive to impose severe economic sanctions now out of fear of what China might do in Taiwan or the South China Sea. Worse, sanctioning China now could backfire, by inducing its leaders to adopt a more aggressive stance than they would have otherwise.

Second, the concept of dual-use goods is misguided, considering that every good has the potential for both civilian and military use. Soldiers need to be fed and clothed, so should food and clothing also be restricted as dual-use goods? Technology developed for commercial use is often used for military purposes, and the military has always been one of the main clients for modern technologies. It is unfortunate that war has driven so much technological progress. But if national security is really the concern, the US should stop all trade with unfriendly countries, not just trade in technologically advanced products. The US may already be moving in that direction with the idea of “friend-shoring.” But history shows that our friends today may not be our friends tomorrow.

In fact, America’s moves against China are less about national security and more about economic domination. If it continues (a big “if”), the impressive progress that China has made over the last three decades could indeed make it the world’s most important economy. But it is wrong to presume that global welfare is a zero-sum game, and that China’s ascent implies America’s decline.

Moreover, it remains to be seen how effective the new sanctions will be, given that the US imposed them unilaterally without consulting its allies. Export restrictions, in particular, call for close coordination, and there is already reason to doubt that some countries will go along with the US policy. The recent visit to China by German Chancellor Olaf Scholz and a high-level German business delegation came just days after Germany approved a controversial deal to let the Chinese shipping giant COSCO acquire a 25% stake in the Port of Hamburg.

Similarly, ever since the Trump administration’s original announcement of export restrictions targeting ZTE and then Huawei, US authorities have struggled to minimize the adverse impact of such restrictions on US companies, and to eliminate channels allowing participants in global value chains to evade sanctions. Global industry tends to stay one step ahead of US enforcement efforts.

Most importantly, even if the export restrictions prove effective, they will not stop China from developing homegrown technologies eventually. In the “best” case, new sanctions would buy the US a few extra years of economic dominance, at the cost of a peaceful economic relationship that has served both countries well for three decades.

Disruptions to complex global value chains will both increase prices for consumers and hamper technological progress. Cooperation on crucial issues such as climate change will suffer. And workers in the US still will not see the return of long-gone manufacturing industries. The biggest beneficiaries will be the consultants and lawyers who are paid to help companies figure out how to cope with the intricate regulations and new licensing requirements.

The US and many other advanced economies seem to have forgotten how much they benefited from China’s opening over the past three decades. Certainly, the process wasn’t perfect: foreign companies did not gain the market access they had hoped for in China, and US workers and regions directly affected by import competition from China paid a heavy price. Governments never followed up with sufficient complementary policies to compensate those adversely affected by China’s entry into the world trading system. But “choking” China’s economy by trying to stop its technological and economic development is no solution to these problems.

One hopes the more conciliatory tone struck by US President Joe Biden and Chinese President Xi Jinping at the G20 summit this month will prove fruitful. The US and China have managed to coexist peacefully and prosper in the past, despite vast differences in cultures and political regimes. At best, an economic war would give the US a Pyrrhic victory. At worst, it could start a new cold war and bring us one step closer to a military confrontation. Either way, it is in no one’s interest.

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OPINION

By David Malpass

Eco-Economic Development

WASHINGTON, DC - The Earth’s biodiversity and the services provided by healthy ecosystems are under massive pressure from climate change and the challenge of supporting eight billion people in a sustainable way. Key ecosystem services - such as timber from forests, pollinators, and ocean fishing - must be conserved and cherished, yet they are being rapidly eroded. The 2022 United Nations Biodiversity Conference (COP15) in Montreal this month offers a chance to build on humanity’s shared vision of living in harmony with nature.

Biodiversity is an important goal for World Bank Group programs. But to reverse its loss, economic decisions must take nature into account. That is why we are working to help countries integrate nature into their economic growth models, development plans, and climate agendas. Doing so means establishing policies that consider nature’s real economic value, building institutions that support nature, developing public-private partnerships to support that goal, and mobilizing finance from all sources to transform economies and policies - going well beyond isolated interventions.

Fishing is a good example of why nature matters for growth and development. Globally, fish stocks are declining, owing to the triple threat of climate change, overfishing, and pollution. If business as usual continues, the world could lose up to 25% of fish catches by the end of the century. That should concern everyone, for several reasons.

First, we are already facing one of the largest food-security crises in modern history. Since fish are an important dietary component for 3.3 billion people, a reduced supply will exacerbate food crises now and in the future. Fish are rich in nutrients that are particularly important for child development, and they are an especially valued source of protein for the poor, because they are easier to obtain and cheaper to preserve than other sources. Hence, fish contribute 50% or more of the total animal-protein intake in Ghana, Mozambique, and Sierra Leone. Moreover, a fish shortage will affect the entire food chain, because fish products are important components of other foods, including livestock feeds.

Second, as fish become scarcer or migrate to colder and deeper waters because of climate change, many fishers will be forced to travel farther to catch them, to change the way they fish, or to find new jobs. Many will not be able to adapt. Among the 38 million people globally who are employed directly in fishing, the most vulnerable will be the hardest hit. This includes small-scale fishing communities, which are often located in remote areas that are already disproportionately affected by climate change. Women, who make up 50% of employees in the broader aquatic-food value chain, will also be significantly affected. For those with little formal education, alternative livelihoods will be hard to find.

Third, the impact of these threats will grow over time. Fish stocks do not respect international boundaries. Without the right regulations and incentives, fleets will continue to maximize their catches in the short term, with major economies overfishing far beyond their territorial waters. If all countries do this, a bad problem will become much worse. Fifty years ago, about 10% of global fish stocks were being fished at biologically unsustainable levels, according to the Food and Agriculture Organization of the UN. Today, that figure has risen to 35%. While many countries will suffer, the poorest communities stand to lose the most.

Faced with these challenges, conservation efforts that merely stop nature loss are no longer enough. Rather, we need to reverse the decline, which means changing how we produce and consume.

One approach is to invest in nature-based solutions that protect nature while also supporting economic development, creating livelihoods, and helping countries mitigate and adapt to climate change. Consider mangroves, which are rich in biodiversity, act as nursery areas for fish, protect more than six million people from annual flooding, and absorb carbon emissions. They are estimated to have an economic wealth valued at \$550 billion. Another example is seaweed farming, which has the potential to create jobs, alleviate food insecurity, and absorb carbon.

The World Bank Group is working across many fronts to help countries recognize both the value of nature and the risks that would follow from losing it. Often working through ministries of finance, we provide funding, knowledge, policy advice, and technical capacity to mobilize partners behind nature-based solutions. With our support, countries are identifying promising new interventions that can be replicated and scaled up.

For example, by involving different stakeholders in marine planning, Vietnam is reducing conflicts over resource use across sectors. In China, we’re working with the Chongqing and Ningbo municipalities to reduce the amount of marine plastic that reaches the ocean from river effluent, building on earlier projects that helped establish China’s water-treatment capacity. By applying technologies like satellites and drones, we are helping Tanzania and other countries obtain real-time data on coastal and marine degradation, so that they can act to prevent it. And through innovative financial instruments such as blue carbon credits, Ghana aims to restore 3,000 hectares of mangroves and bring in more private funding.

We are working to expand efforts like these. Near-term goals include more financing for projects in poor countries, a bigger role for the private sector, and coordinated action from local communities to national governments. But if we are going to stop biodiversity loss, much more needs to be done, both by us and the global community.

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ARTICLEARTICLE

The Case of Liberia Under George Weah: Plenty for the Selected Few and Hunger for the Majority

By S. Karweaye

A good proportion of young people today were taught from primary school that agriculture is the mainstay of the Liberia economy. Agricultural Science as a subject is part of our educational curriculum and therefore taught at all levels of education.

Despite the constant emphasis on agriculture as a core aspect of the Liberia economy government officials, the sector has long since ceased to be the main revenue source since our country was formed. Israel is the poster child for a nation that has turned the odds in its favor agriculturally. More than half its land is desert and the climate is unsuitable for agriculture, yet, it is a world leader in agricultural technologies and a major exporter of fresh produce.

Only 20% of Israeli land is arable yet it produces 95% of its nutritional requirements.

Liberia on the other hand, according to the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) 2019 statistics, has a total land area of 9,632,000 hectares with an agricultural area of 1954.04 hectares. In simple terms, 36 percent or more of the land in Liberia is arable, out of which less than half is currently under cultivation. Not only do we have vast amounts of arable land, but we also have favourable weather for the year-round cultivation of crops.

Endowed with vast and varied natural resources, large biodiversity, lush vegetation, and a climate favorable to agriculture, Liberia has enormous potential in food and cash crop production.

Despite the foregoing, Liberia does not produce enough food for internal consumption. According to FAO, the 2020 national rice production was estimated at 270 000 tonnes, similar to the five year average and slightly below the previous year.

The 2020 FAO statistics placed Liberia among the highest importer of rice in the world, wheat, and sugar. Rice for human consumption accounts for over 80 percent of imports, while wheat and maize account for about 13 percent and 6 percent. Sadly, these are all products that can be grown locally and if managed properly, can be exported soon.

It is saddening to know that Liberia once shone in its agricultural sector during the '60s and '70s in such a deplorable state.

This was the period when agriculture was not as mechanized and technologically advanced as it is now. All these factors notwithstanding, Liberia competed satisfactorily in world exports. Liberia was also the largest exporter of rubber between the early 1960s and 70s.

Devastatingly, there was a decline from around 1974 till date; these days, Liberia does not feature among the top 5 rubber exporters in the world. Ivory Coast, a neighboring country best known as the world's top cocoa producer, is presently Africa's leading grower of natural rubber and the fourth largest in the world. Ivory Coast's natural rubber output is expected to reach 1.1 million tonnes in 2021, up almost 16% from about 950,000 tonnes the previous year. Provisional port data showed that Ivory Coast exported 1.2 million tonnes of rubber in

2020.

For a country blessed with so many food production endowments, the 2022 Global Hunger Index (GHI) scored Liberia at 32.4. This index assesses all available data on hunger, undernourishment, and the pattern of food consumption within countries, and the higher the score, the more serious the nation's hunger challenges.

According to the ranking, the score of 32.4 for Liberia, therefore, indicates a 'serious' hunger problem in the country. Ironically, nations like Iran, Kuwait, and Jordan which are substantially desert nations scored less than 10 on the GHI, indicating the near absence of hunger and malnutrition.

What exactly is the problem with past and current governments that the issue of food security - the adequate production and availability of food within the country is treated with such levity? Could it be that the daily provision of millions of US dollars maintenance of our government officials and their families has deluded our leaders from the



hunger that abounds just outside the walls of their abode? Are our leaders so disconnected from the citizens that they do not appreciate the hunger and malnutrition problems that many households face daily? Let us look at the 2022 national budget approved by the legislature and signed into law by the President for some answers or lack of them. In the 2022 budget, the total provision for the Agricultural sector by the government of Liberia is put at U\$7.3 million (0.9% of the budget) and was earmarked for recurrent expenses (compensation of employees, goods, and services as well as non-financial assets).

In 2003, one of the most prominent decisions arrived at during the African Union (AU) Maputo Declaration on Agriculture and Food Security in Africa was the "commitment to the allocation of at least 10 percent of national budgetary resources to agriculture and rural development policy implementation within five years".

Twenty (20) years after that declaration, Liberia's budgetary provision for agriculture is less than 1%. Scrutinizing the budget further, it is worrying to see how the largest proportions of the funds are earmarked for recurrent spending. For instance, the Central Agricultural Research Institute has a total allocation of US\$1,645,179 with US\$1,110,044 for employee compensation.

There are compensations for goods and services (US\$535,135), consultancy fees (US\$40,000) as well as agricultural supplies & input (151,000). Liberia is not in the top ten in terms of global rubber exports.

Despite this, we believe that if the funds were tipped

more in favor of capital expenditure on research and development, extension, and technical support services, we may just move up to be among the top ten or five sometime soon. Many more of these lopsided expenditures abound within the agricultural sector.

The Liberia Agriculture Commodity Regulatory Authority (LACRA) has a total allocation of US\$550,107. The compensation of employees is \$456,510. Good and service is put at \$93,597. One wonders what deliverables accrue to the nation and citizens from all the huge recurrent spending.

For the agricultural sector to be restored as the mainstay of our economy, the spending priorities of the governments must genuinely reflect a national commitment to the sector. Allocating US\$7 million of the budget to the agricultural sector, while relying on donor projects from USAID, EU, IDA, AFDB, etc. to assist the sector is insufficient to enable us to attain the food sufficiency we direly need, much less position us to be a major exporter of cash crops.

The African Union (AU) target of 10% of the budget applies particularly more to the central governments where most of the actual cultivation and production of crops take place. Even with Donor projects toward the agricultural sector in Liberia, we are still at 9% which is below the AU threshold. Agriculture must be made a priority bearing in mind that some of our resources are non-renewable, finite resources that will be exhausted sometime in the future, or replaced by greener or cheaper alternatives.

The budgetary allocation figures also need to be tilted sharply in favor of capital expenditures. Agriculture is a practical and ground-based profession. The enormous personnel costs incurred by redundant government employees add little or nothing to the development of our agricultural sector. Those monies budgeted for the research institutes need to be invested in the real or pilot production sites (farms) and the acquisition of the seedlings, fertilizers, chemicals, and equipment required to make them boost crop output. Better coordination with infrastructural Ministries, Departments, and Agencies (MDAs) to aggressive investment in storage capacities, low-interest loans, and greater extension and support services should command the attention of agricultural policymakers at governmental levels.

Studies indicate that every US dollar spent on agricultural research produces nine dollars' worth of added food in developing countries. Agricultural research that successfully drove the first Green Revolution in Asia can do the same in Liberia.

This does not refer to wasteful expenditure on personnel cost, engaging in excessive domestic and international travel, purchasing unneeded SUVs, and other pea-brained budget heads that constitute the bulk of typical ministries, departments, and agencies' recurrent expenditures.

A worthwhile investment in biotechnological hardware, and software, and attracting the best and brightest minds to agricultural research will pay off in the medium to long term. Liberia must attain food sufficiency so that the paradox of hunger amid plenty will no longer apply to us. I rest my case.

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

Nagbe urges payment of media debts

By Lincoln G. Peters

Liberia Maritime Authority (LiMA) Commissioner Eugene Lenn Nagbe has called on government agencies and public officials to settle their financial

and staff. He observed that many studies have pointed to the critical role that journalists play in preventing conflict in a country.

As such, Mr. Nager said they must be properly prepared and paid for this delicate work.

media by giving them rightful business and advertising,” said Commissioner Nagbe.

He explained that the Reporters Association through its leadership has a role to play in this venture.

He said this can be done by advocating and insisting that the responsible parties respect the rights of all reporters. Nagbe indicated that this is his position. The Reports Association of Liberia over the weekend inducted into office a new team of leaders to run the affairs of the institution for the next four years.

The program was held at the Sinkor Palace Hotel, formerly known as the Millennium Guest House in Congo Town.

Those inducted into office include journalist Willie N. Tokpah, Sr, of the FrontPage Africa Newspaper, president; Vice President Henscin Dehgar of Truth FM; Augustine Saah, Secretary General; Bobby M. Tingba, Assistant Secretary-General; and Esther D. Johnson, Financial Secretary.

Delivering his inaugural speech, the group’s president Willie N. Tokpah expressed excitement, and joy over the turning of power over to his leadership. Tokpah said they will make sure that their quest to protect and advocate for journalists comes through.

“An inauguration is about far more than welcoming a new president. It is an occasion that is both solemn and joyous - it’s a moment for us reporters to reaffirm the foundational values that have

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obligation with media entities.

Nagbe believes that this will help to empower and enable media entities to properly pay their employees.

The LiMA boss made the call over the weekend when he inducted newly elected officials of the Reporters Association of Liberia (RAL) into office. He suggested that it’s very prudent that all government institutions and public officials settle their financial obligations with the media. According to the former Information Minister, settling media debts will help media owners to stop underpaying their reporters

“We have all, including [me], played lip service to finding solutions for the unacceptable situation that we find reporters in,” Nage confessed. “Now it’s the time to find [a] practical and lasting solution to the dismal situation where reporters are underpaid, underequipped, undervalued while we ask them to perform a very critical national function,” he said.

Commissioner Nagbe stated that he has concluded that if reporters have to be paid properly, those in public service, not just the government, must begin to settle their obligations with media entities.

“We must support the

L\$500k counterfeit intercepted

-At Liberian border

By Lincoln G. Peters

Joint security forces have arrested three suspects with L\$500,000 counterfeit at the Bo Waterside Check Point in Grand Cape Mount County, western Liberia.

Police spokesman Moses Carter told a press conference Monday, 9 January 2023 that the three suspects were attempting to enter the country with five hundred thousand Liberian Dollars counterfeit through the Bo Waterside Check Point on 7 January.

Carter said the suspects were intercepted by the joint security officers.

Those arrested include Sekou Kanneh, Mohammed Kamara, both Liberians and Vaboyee Kamara, a Guinean national.

Mr. Carter cautioned

Liberians to be very careful in financial transactions.

Meanwhile, Carter also revealed that the LNP has launched a full-scale investigation into the death of a 15-year-old girl named Princess Hammer. He said the girl was discovered dead with parts abstracted from her body in

Mount Barclay, Montserrado County.

In another development, Carter revealed the arrest of a sixteen-year-old boy, Cyrus Logan, in connection with the death of a thirty-one-year-old woman identified as Alpha Gray in the Du-Port Road Community.



Veteran Bureau to conduct awareness

The National Bureau of Veteran Affairs is expected to dispatch a team across the country shortly to educate its members on the need to remain peaceful and law-abiding, especially as the nation goes to elections this year.

The Deputy Director for Veteran Affairs Retired Lt. Col. Andrew Wleh, warned veterans that though they are no more in uniforms, they risk prosecution under the Uniform Code of Military Justice, if found in illegal activities.

Lt. Col. Wleh gave the warning at the first general meeting organized by the National Bureau of Veteran Affairs with staff, employees,

Alexander Geor, warned employees there against double-dipping Major Geor directed the Human Resource Director at the entity to take stuck of all employees purposely to ensure that all employees report to work at 9:00 am and leave at 4:00pm daily.

He welcomed the decision by the veteran community to unite and avoid street protests and work with the authority in seeking their welfare. The Assistant Director General for Women and Children at the Bureau, Retired Major Ophelia Hinneh, appealed to government and international partners to assist widows and children of ex-soldiers.

She also warned veterans against politics as they are reservists for the state.

Meanwhile, the director for the



and veterans of the Armed Forces of Liberia recently in Congo Town.

He said the Chief of Staff of the Armed Forces of Liberia, Major/General Prince Johnson, has assured veterans that once there is peace and unity among them, there is prospect of government soliciting assistance from international partners to tap on the skills of veterans and undertake programs that will improve their lives.

Lieutenant Colonel Wleh reaffirmed his commitment to implementing a ten-count resolution, including payment of resettlement to veterans.

In remarks, the Deputy Director for Administration at the Bureau, Retired Major

agriculture department at the Bureau, Retired Lt. Col. Peter Bonner, appealed to government to fund the department.

Col. Bonner disclosed that the department has 1,500 acres of farmland in Sinoe County, 25,000 acres of land along the Monrovia-Buchanan highway and over 10,000 acres in Todee district, Montserrado County with 850 men trained to work on these farms, but they lack support.

He assured the public that the agricultural department of the Bureau is capable of producing food to feed the entire country.

The meeting was graced by staff, employees, and veterans of the Armed Forces of Liberia, among others. **Editing by Jonathan Browne**

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MORE HEADLINE NEWS

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

'A Great Feat for Female Leadership in Journalism'**-Team Kanubah Hails Appointment of Mrs C. Winnie Saywah Jimmy As Inquirer's Managing Editor**

The National Campaign Management Team of Julius Kanubah for the presidency of the Press Union of Liberia believes the

positions of influence in the field of journalism, media and communication.

On 03 January 2023, the Board of Shareholders of the New Era Corporation,

Journalism, Media and Communication through actively working to expand and advance their career and leadership roles.

Since the unveiling and subsequent elaboration of our campaign manifesto to media managers and stakeholders as well as the greater Liberian public in October 2022, C-Win as she is affectionately called has, for the record, become the first female Managing Editor of The Inquirer Newspaper.

Having started her journalism career in 2001 as an intern at The Inquirer Newspaper from the erstwhile International School of Journalism (ISJ), C-Win has impeccably and continuously demonstrated quality journalism and leadership as a female in a predominantly male sphere.

She is reputed for providing outstanding journalistic coverage at some of the most important beats of Liberian journalism such as the Legislature, Judiciary and Executive branches of Government; earning her the award of Best Legislative Reporter of the Year 2008 of the Press Union of Liberia.

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appointment of Mrs Christiana Winnie Saywah Jimmy to the position of Managing Editor of The Inquirer Newspaper is a great feat in the feminization of media management and leadership in Liberia.

Team Kanubah further views the appointment of Mrs Saywah-Jimmy as a victory in the ongoing struggles for the elevation of women of competence and experience as much as their male counterparts to

publishers of The Inquirer Newspaper, announced its decision to appoint Mrs Saywah Jimmy as Managing Editor at one of Liberia's enduring and leading publications, built on the principle of ethical journalism.

In appointing Mrs Saywah Jimmy, we believe, the Board of Shareholders of The Inquirer Newspaper made the right call; a decision which Team Kanubah says is in line with its campaign manifesto of Supporting Women in

Kinjor people condemn violence at Bea Mountain

The people of Kinjor community in Diablo Clan, Gola Konneh District, Grand Cape Mount County have condemned recent violence at the concession site of Bea Mountain in the county, which obstructed normal operations of the company.

They expressed shock and displeasure and described the violence as unacceptable, and should be condemned by all peace-loving citizens.

In a press statement issued in Monrovia, the Kinjor community residents and the leaders categorically disassociate themselves from what they described as acts of lawlessness by intransigent youths, which they said was completely unjustified.

"While we acknowledge engaging the Management of Bea Mountain in respects to several issues of concerns over the years, we and management have worked together to resolve some issues and continue to engage each other in a dialogue out of which several accomplishments have been accomplished by

both sides", the release reads. It cites overtures made by the Management of Bea Mountain to allow communities to nominate and recommend candidate(s) for in its Human Resource and Community Relations departments, conclusion of the establishment of a clan development funds in the amount of US\$150,000 out of which schools and clinics will be constructed in the district, and asphalt construction of the 19 kilometers Daniel Town Road, among others.

The release said due to allegations of improprieties against community leaders regarding hiring of citizens, it was

agreed at a recent meeting that Management introduce a public bulletin and mailbox system for community hiring process, which it says citizens believe is transparent, fair and answers question of impropriety and abuse by any individual.

But the citizens said to their dismay, some individuals took upon themselves to destroy said consensus exercise, noting that for the record, none of these achievements were made thru acts of hooliganism or violence thus, they strongly reaffirm their position to remain engaged with company in positive dialogue, the release noted. **Press release**

**US-based group targets 15 Liberian children for scholarship**

Sweat Equity Athletic and Leadership Development based in America has launched a scholarship scheme for 15 youths in Montserrado County. The project was launched last Thursday, January 5, 2022 in electoral District # 9, Montserrado county.

Executive Director Pitman Kennedy said, the scholarship will identify and fund the education of young people to prepare them for the future.

Mr. Kennedy believes that if young people can maintain high academic performance and at the same time exercise leadership ability within a year, they might even get additional assistance, including uniform, depending on their respective needs.

after."

CEO Kennedy explained that in order to benefit from the scholarship, candidates must first be able to possess good character, academic excellence, and leadership development.

He called on young people that were selected to continually embrace academic excellence so that they will be able to maintain the scholarship.

According to him, due to limited funds, they are only working with 15 children from Montserrado, but in the nearby future, kids from rural Liberia will be added to the program.

"I have my business in the States and sometimes I take the proceed from my business to run this program, but if we get more funding,



"Each kid that gets the scholarship for an academic year gets a 100 percent payment and some of them might even get additional compensation like uniforms, depending on their needs," he noted

He said his vision is to build the capacity of young people in Liberia so they too can provide the same assistance to the new batch of young people that will emerge.

"My goal is for them to be empowered so that they too can do the same, and that way we will improve our communities Every young child you see here is going to have their tuitions paid by a scholarship through Sweat Equity Athletic and Leadership Development for at least a year, and some of them beyond."

Commenting further on the organization's activities, he revealed that there's a project team already set up in Liberia to craft criteria for the scholarship.

He said this is the official launch of the project in Liberia, but in the United States, they have been during this for about seven years.

He expressed passion in developing young people to make sure that there's a legacy after he departs the world.

"I want from little Romeo here to say tomorrow that there's a guy who gives me hope and opportunity to be who I am today. And he too can be able to provide the same hope to other young Liberians, who will be coming

we will extend the program in the rural parts of Liberia", Mr. Kennedy promised.

Therefore, he says he's going back to talk with his team from the US to help him in building the capacity of young librarians back home. "So, when I go back to the USA, my Team on that side is going to help me build these different capacities, so we're going to work with the team in Liberia to identify these areas. Those are the things we are looking for in the nearby future."

He stressed that the act of leaving a legacy is very important, "because when you are gone, these are the things that you are going to be remembered for. So many kids' lives I've touched and they are going to be remembered by that when I'm gone."

Meanwhile, beneficiaries of the program applauded Mr. Kennedy for the opportunity that has been provided to them and at the same time pledged to maintain academic performance and good leadership as he has emphasized.

The project manager here in Liberia, Ms. Princess Kpeh and a mother of one of the beneficiaries, Christian Fahnbulleh said, looking at the economic condition of most parents in sending their children to school, the project will provide relief.

She expressed hope that parents will take advantage of the opportunity and push their children to maintain the opportunity, which according to her, will ease some of the many challenges they face daily.

Editing by Jonathan Browne

Français

Le Ministère du commerce interdit aux étrangers la production de la crème glacée

L'Association des Business du Liberia (LIBA) se félicite de la décision du ministère du commerce et de l'industrie d'interdire à la société libanaise Oven Bakery de produire de la crème glacée, une des 16 activités

investissent un minimum de 500 000 USD en capital externe spécifiquement pour la crème glacée.

L'entreprise Oven Bakery, qui était dans la communauté Buzzy Quarter depuis des années, a déménagé à 15th Street, en décembre. Le panneau sur le

qu'ils étaient autorisés à ne vendre que du pain. Le ministère a verrouillé la devanture de la boulangerie et a ordonné aux propriétaires de retirer la crème glacée de l'enseigne. La boulangerie a rouvert, mais ils ne produisent pas de crème glacée. Toutefois, jusqu'à présent, la boulangerie a enfreint l'ordre du ministère car il n'a pas encore retiré la crème glacée de sa signalisation.

« Nous avons le devoir de protéger les activités qui sont réservées uniquement aux Libériens », a déclaré Strother. « Si nous, Libériens, ne luttons pas pour nos droits, qui le fera ? »

M. Strother a également félicité Mme Eyvonne Bright, PDG de Shark's Ice Cream and Catering, pour avoir toujours attiré l'attention des autorités lorsqu'elle voit des étrangers s'aventurer dans le commerce de la crème glacée.

Mme Bright se bat pour protéger l'industrie de la crème glacée depuis 2015. Le supermarché ERA a abandonné sa quête de produire de la crème glacée après que Mme Bright a déposé une plainte.

« Un jour, les gens finiront par comprendre qu'il faut laisser tranquille les activités

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commerciales uniquement réservées aux Libériens en vertu de la loi libérienne sur l'investissement adoptée en 2010.

En vertu de cette loi, les étrangers ne sont pas autorisés à produire de la crème glacée, à moins qu'ils s'associent à un Libérien et

nouvel emplacement annonce la crème glacée comme l'un des articles produits avec le pain, les pâtisseries, les sandwichs et le café.

Selon M. James M. Strother, président de la LIBA, le ministre du Commerce, Marwine G. Diggs, a fermé la boulangerie avant la fête de Noël et a dit aux propriétaires

La frisson des caches d'armes

Les informations faisant état de la découverte de deux énormes caches d'armes et de munitions au port de Monrovia et dans une résidence privée à Brewerville, à l'extérieur de Monrovia, la semaine dernière, font froid au dos.

L'immensité de la frayeur est due non seulement à la sophistication des types d'armes d'assaut découverte, mais aussi des souvenirs effrayants que l'on a des décennies de guerre civile au cours desquelles plus de 250 000 Libériens ont perdu la vie et des biens estimés à des milliards de dollars américains ont été détruits, sans compter les entreprises et les banques.

Comme si cela ne suffisait pas, juste au moment où le pays commençait à ramasser et recoller les morceaux pour se remettre sur la voie de la reprise économique, il a été frappé par le virus mortel EBOLA, annulant presque tous les gains d'après-guerre réalisés pendant le deuxième mandat de Mme Ellen Johnson Sirleaf.

Et à peine le pays a tenté

de récupérer que la pandémie mondiale a frappé. La COVID-19 a cependant eu un impact mondial, mais comme de nombreux pays pauvres et sous-développés, le Libéria a souffert et est toujours aux prises avec les conséquences du virus - ses impacts économiques.

Malgré ces défis, le pays est resté concentré sur sa voie démocratique naissante avec des élections générales et présidentielles prévues plus tard cette année.

C'est dans ce contexte que des armes sophistiquées ont été découvertes. L'on pourrait s'interroger sur la logique de ces

armes, des fusils d'assaut, dans un pays qui a beaucoup souffert.

Les forces de sécurité ont déjà identifié un certain Boy Benjamin Baker comme étant l'expéditeur basé aux États-Unis et ont arrêté certaines personnes, dont un courtier.

À ce stade, il n'y a pas eu d'autres rapports ou noms d'individus étroitement liés à ou finançant ces expéditions, qui, selon des sources de sécurité, se sont faufilées hors du port depuis plus d'un an maintenant. Ceci est corroboré

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Éditorial

Le manque de volonté politique tue les institutions libériennes d'intégrité

L'ambassadeur des États-Unis au Libéria, Michael McCarthy, demande aux dirigeants libériens d'avoir le courage de soutenir les institutions de moralisation de la vie publique, car le sort de la nation en dépend.

Selon l'ambassadeur McCarthy, le manque de volonté politique affecte ces institutions d'intégrité et les empêche de remplir leur mission régalienne, quoi qu'elles semblent ragaillardies par les sanctions américaines Magnitsky à l'encontre des fonctionnaires corrompus.

« C'est une chose de dire qu'on veut la transparence dans les industries extractives du Libéria, c'en est aussi une autre de rendre publics tous les accords et revenus de concession et d'exploration des industries extractives et dénoncer publiquement les acteurs illégaux. C'est une chose de soutenir le Code de conduite, mais c'en est une autre de faire respecter les exigences en matière de déclaration de patrimoine », a dit le diplomate américain.

L'ambassadeur américain a récemment fait le tour de plusieurs institutions d'intégrité et rencontré des dirigeants et des employés de ces institutions, dont notamment l'Agence d'audit interne, la Commission générale d'audit, l'Agence de renseignement financier, la Commission des marchés publics et des concessions et l'Initiative libérienne pour la transparence des industries extractives.

"L'un des objectifs de cette récente série de réunions", explique M. McCarthy, "était d'évaluer si les institutions de moralisation de la vie publique avaient constaté des améliorations en matière de gouvernance responsable à la suite des sanctions du département du Trésor américain annoncées en août".

Il a attiré l'attention des libériens sur trois points essentiels à retenir, à savoir : le Libéria ne prospérera pas sans des institutions d'intégrité qui fonctionnent bien, les institutions d'intégrité du Libéria ont besoin de plus de ressources, et les institutions d'intégrité ne peuvent pas réussir sans une vraie volonté politique.

L'ambassadeur a fait observer que la plupart des institutions chargées de l'intégrité sont composées de personnes travailleuses, dévouées et motivées, des gens qui veulent faire du Libéria un pays meilleur où il fait bon vivre, mais malheureusement, beaucoup d'entre elles ont des budgets bien insignifiants et un pouvoir d'achat très négligeable. Pire, la plupart d'entre elles ne reçoivent jamais le montant total qui leur est alloué. Dans certains cas, selon le diplomate américain, les déficits de financement représentent plus de 50% du montant accordé aux institutions dans le budget national. Ce qui, bien évidemment, entraîne des coupes importantes dans les fonds opérationnels, au point de ne plus avoir de carburant ou d'ordinateurs portables pour les enquêtes et les audits.

Selon lui, au cours des 20 dernières années, les États-Unis et le Libéria ont travaillé ensemble pour construire un Libéria prospère pour l'avenir de tous les Libériens, et après le conflit civil, les Libériens se sont réunis en 2003 pour reconstruire les institutions démocratiques du pays, ainsi que des garanties pour protéger sa gouvernance démocratique, dont les principales étaient les institutions d'intégrité du pays qui ont été construites, financées et dotées de certains des esprits les meilleurs et les plus brillants du Libéria.

Ces institutions ont été créées par la loi et conçues pour être à l'abri de l'ingérence politique, et en combinaison avec un environnement de société civile robuste et des médias libres dynamiques, elles donnent au Libéria des atouts uniques pour maintenir sa démocratie, alors que le pays a construit son post-fondation de guerre sur la démocratie et l'État de droit, la communauté internationale en a pris note et les entreprises multinationales sont revenues sur les côtes du Libéria, et la croissance du PIB s'est accélérée de 2003 à 2011.

Mais au cours de la dernière décennie, l'élan a changé et les dirigeants libériens ont accordé moins de soutien politique et financier aux institutions d'intégrité vitales du pays, l'économie a ralenti, la corruption a augmenté et les entreprises internationales ont commencé à chercher ailleurs des opportunités d'investissement.

Selon l'ambassadeur, le potentiel économique du Libéria reste énorme, mais cela ne se réalisera pas sans une gouvernance démocratique responsable que les institutions d'intégrité du Libéria sont censées promouvoir.

Nous sommes tout à faire d'accord avec M. McCarthy. Il est temps que les dirigeants joignent l'acte à la parole. Le soutien des institutions de moralisation de la vie publique devrait être une priorité.

L'ambassadeur des États-Unis l'a si bien dit. Les institutions telles que l'Agence d'audit interne, la Commission générale d'audit, l'Agence de renseignement financier, la Commission des marchés publics et des concessions et l'Initiative pour la transparence des industries extractives du Libéria n'existent que par leur nom. C'est triste, très triste.

De toute évidence, le manque de volonté politique de l'administration Weah affame progressivement les institutions d'intégrité et affaiblit la lutte contre la corruption

Nous voilà en 2023. Nous ne pouvons faire qu'espérer que les dirigeants tiendront compte des préoccupations soulevées par le diplomate américain en accordant une importance aux institutions d'intégrité.

Français

Le Ministère du commerce interdit aux

réservées uniquement aux Libériens », a-t-elle déclaré. « Je tiens à remercier le ministre Diggs d’avoir fait une déclaration ferme sur la protection des activités commerciales libériennes ».

La mise en œuvre de la politique de “libériennisation” a été un défi majeur. La crème glacée, selon Mme Bright, est uniquement réservée aux Libériens de la même manière que la profession juridique est réservée uniquement aux Libériens.

« Que se passerait-il si des étrangers commençaient à pratiquer le droit dans ce pays ? Nous avons besoin d’un effort concerté de tous les Libériens, des citoyens à l’Autorité fiscale libérienne (LRA), en passant par le registre du commerce et le ministère du Commerce et de l’Industrie. Si nous ne protégeons pas les entreprises libériennes, il ne restera rien pour nous et nos enfants. Eagle Electrical est présente au Libéria depuis les années 1960. Les gens qui la dirigent ne sont pas ceux qui l’ont lancée. Elle est gérée par leurs enfants et les membres de leur famille. Les Libanais protègent leurs entreprises pour leurs enfants. Il est temps que les Libériens commencent à faire de même. »

Lorsque le président Weah a prêté serment en tant que président en 2018, il a déclaré que les Libériens ne seraient pas « des spectateurs de notre propre économie ».

“Nous convenons que nous ne serons pas des spectateurs de notre propre économie”, a déclaré Mme Bright. « Nous avons travaillé pendant les années de guerre et nous sommes déterminés à continuer à travailler. Nous leur demandons simplement de respecter cet aspect de la loi. ”

La frisson des caches d’armes

par le commentaire de l’inspecteur général Patrick Sudue selon lequel il semble y avoir des carabines manquantes car certaines munitions saisies ne peuvent pas correspondre aux carabines actuellement en leur possession.

Les uns et les autres on commencé à se gratter la tête et à pointer du doigt à celui-ci ou à celui-là, selon la théorie du complot que l’on écoute. Mais l’essentiel est que si les citoyens nourrissaient déjà des craintes avant les prochaines élections, ces craintes ont été exacerbées.

Par conséquent, la nécessité d’une enquête approfondie avec des institutions crédibles telles que l’Association du barreau du Libéria, la Commission indépendante des droits de l’homme et des partenaires internationaux, entre autres, servant

Les femmes libériennes, a-t-elle dit, sont des pionnières dans le commerce de la crème glacée. Eugenia Cooper Shaw, Euphemia Weeks et Sophie Dunbar comptent parmi les Libériennes éminentes qui ont produit de la crème glacée.

Malgré les défis, Mme Bright a persévéré. La crème glacée Shark est vendue dans la plupart des supermarchés de Monsterrado et dans cinq comtés. Il y a deux ans, Mme Bright a ouvert une usine dans le parc industriel de Somalia Drive.

Au Ghana, le gouvernement protège les articles produits localement en imposant des droits de douane élevés sur les articles importés.

“Nos ancêtres ont compris que les Libériens n’avaient peut-être pas le capital pour faire d’autres types de commerce, alors ils en ont réservé pour les Libériens”, a déclaré Mme Bright.

Les autres activités commerciales réservées aux Libériens sont la vente de l’eau glacée, la vente de sable, de la glace, la fabrication des briques, le colportage, l’ouverture des agences de voyage, la vente au détail de riz et de ciment, les ateliers de réparation de pneus, les ateliers de réparation automobile avec des investissements inférieurs à 550 000 dollars, les ateliers de réparation de chaussures, vente au détail de bois et de planches, stations-service, vidéoclubs, la conduite de taxis, importation ou vente de vêtements d’occasion et importation et vente de voitures d’occasion.

LIBA encourage les citoyens à dénoncer les contrevenants. “Si vous connaissez un étranger qui exerce une activité interdite, portez-le à l’attention de la LIBA et du ministère du Commerce”, a déclaré Strother. “Nous allons mener cette guerre ensemble. »

d’observateurs dans le cadre de ces enquêtes reste essentielle pour l’intégrité du résultat et la poursuite ultérieure des personnes impliquées.

Un autre domaine critique à examiner alors que les forces de sécurité enquêtent sur les caches d’armes est la contrebande illégale en cours dans le port principal du pays depuis que le processus d’inspection de destination de réexpédition (PDI) a été annulé pour le remplacer par l’inspection de destination.

Récemment, une grande quantité de cocaïne d’une valeur de 100 millions de dollars américains a été découverte dans un conteneur à Tonpoe village. Le conteneur avait été autorisé à quitter le port plusieurs jours avant la découverte de la substance interdite.

COMMENTAIRE

Par Jayati Ghosh

La démondialisation financière doit constituer la prochaine étape

NEW DELHI - Après avoir encouragé l’intégration pendant quarante ans au travers du commerce et de la finance, l’économie mondiale entame un douloureux processus de fragmentation. Représentées dans un premier temps par les pays riches - les États-Unis du président Donald Trump et le Royaume-Uni après le référendum sur le Brexit - plusieurs forces géopolitiques se sont combinées pour accélérer le passage à la démondialisation.

La fracturation du commerce mondial pourrait bien annoncer la fragmentation des marchés internationaux de capitaux. Les fermetures et confinements liés au COVID-19 ont perturbé les chaînes d’approvisionnement mondiales, et mis à l’arrêt divers centres de production majeurs, notamment en Chine. De même, la guerre en Ukraine a modifié les routes commerciales, et contraint les pays occidentaux à trouver des fournisseurs alternatifs de produits de base essentiels, de type pétrole, gaz, blé et engrais. Les sanctions occidentales contre la Russie ont encore davantage entravé les échanges commerciaux, et conduit à l’explosion des prix de l’alimentaire et de l’énergie.

Tandis que le commerce mondial risque de devenir encore plus fragmenté si les grandes économies adoptent des politiques protectionnistes telles que les taxes carbone aux frontières, les marchés financiers demeurent fortement intégrés. Les flux transfrontaliers de capitaux restent faiblement réglementés dans l’ensemble, et plus volatiles que jamais. Ce contexte combiné se révèle actuellement funeste pour de nombreux pays à revenu faible et intermédiaire.

La libéralisation des comptes de capitaux au sein de ces pays dans les années 1990 a entraîné d’importants flux entrants de « hot money », c’est-à-dire de capitaux financiers privés moins axés sur les perspectives économiques des pays en voie de développement que sur les politiques macroéconomiques des pays développés. Au cours des années qui ont suivi la crise financière mondiale de 2008, les flux de capitaux en direction des marchés émergents et des marchés dits « frontières » ont explosé, pendant que l’expansion monétaire prolongée conduite par les banques centrales des pays développés alimentait les bulles d’actifs. Les agents financiers empruntaient bon marché en dollars, et soit prêtaient en devises étrangères aux pays en voie de développement, soit investissaient sur les marchés en devise locale. Les flux de capitaux ont donné lieu à des différentiels de taux d’intérêt plus élevés, ainsi qu’à une appréciation monétaire, ce qui a rendu particulièrement lucratives les opérations spéculatives sur écart de rendement - du moins pendant un temps.

Au fil des années, les flux entrants de hot money, souvent détenus en réserves et investis dans des actifs à faible rendement en dollars, ont rendu vulnérables à la fuite des capitaux les économies émergentes et en voie de développement. Ceci a provoqué un effet modérateur sur les politiques budgétaires de ces pays, l’augmentation des coûts de seigneurage suscitant la crainte d’un abaissement des notations de crédit.

Les hausses rapides de taux d’intérêt aux États-Unis et dans l’Union européenne viennent alourdir la charge de la dette extérieure des pays à revenu faible et intermédiaire, ce qui leur impose d’élever les taux d’intérêt de manière

encore plus agressive que les économies développées, tout en entravant leur reprise après la pandémie de COVID-19. Par ailleurs, ces augmentations radicales de taux d’intérêt n’empêchent pas les investisseurs étrangers versatiles de fuir, ce qui conduit à la dépréciation de la monnaie des marchés émergents, tout en mettant à mal les marchés du travail et les perspectives de croissance.

La combinaison entre taux d’intérêt plus élevés et consolidation budgétaire de la part des pays développés est en réalité contreproductive, risquant de provoquer des récessions sans pour autant combattre les forces qui sous-tendent véritablement l’explosion de l’inflation. À cause des décisions de la Réserve fédérale américaine, nombre de pays à revenu faible et intermédiaire connaissent d’ores et déjà une stagflation sévère, leur intégration à la finance mondiale aggravant par ailleurs leurs difficultés économiques.

Plutôt que de reproduire l’approche inefficace des économies développées, les pays émergents et en voie de développement doivent appliquer des politiques adaptées à leurs besoins spécifiques ainsi qu’à leur économie politique : contrôle des prix des produits de base clés, augmentation de la production domestique pour atténuer les pénuries critiques, ainsi que protection sociale pour les nouveaux chômeurs et les catégories les plus impactées par l’inflation élevée.

Par-dessus tout, les pays en voie de développement doivent mettre en place des contrôles plus efficaces sur les capitaux. L’imposition de contraintes sur les flux volatiles de portefeuille, en particulier sur ceux qui alimentent la dépréciation monétaire, est indispensable à l’atténuation des risques associés à la mondialisation financière. Par ailleurs, de la même manière que plusieurs pays en voie de développement défient aujourd’hui explicitement ou implicitement les sanctions commerciales américaines contre la Russie, les dirigeants politiques doivent rompre avec ce système financier international sous domination des États-Unis, notamment avec les swaps en dollars et les marchés des opérations de pension.

La plupart des pays en voie de développement ne pouvant se permettre d’agir dans leur individualité, une coopération régionale est également cruciale. Le rapport annuel de la Conférence des Nations Unies sur le commerce et le développement décrit plusieurs formes innovantes de finance et de paiement de change, que les pays du Sud pourraient mettre en œuvre afin de contrer la domination financière des économies développées, par exemple des accords de compensation Sud-Sud.

Si les échanges commerciaux entre économies du Sud connaissent une croissance rapide, énonce le rapport, les flux seront réglés dans leurs propres monnaies ou via des mécanismes monétaires régionaux. Ces mécanismes pourraient également contribuer à la négociation d’accords de restructuration de la dette, fournir une assurance financière au niveau régional, voire établir une stabilisation des fonds pour améliorer la position en actifs étrangers de ces pays.

La mondialisation financière était censée inaugurer une ère de croissance solide et de stabilité financière dans les pays en voie de développement. Elle a fini par produire précisément l’inverse. Pour rétablir leur viabilité économique, les pays à revenu faible et intermédiaire doivent exploiter pleinement la démondialisation, et saisir l’opportunité de la fragmentation des marchés internationaux de capitaux.

ON 2ND THOUGHTS

The arms cache



with Othello B. Garblah

Reports of a huge cache of arms and ammunition at the main seaport in Monrovia and subsequent discoveries at a private residence in Brewerville outside Monrovia last week have sent chills down many.

Not just because of the sophistication of the kinds of military weapons involved, but also chill memories from decades of civil war in which more than 250 thousand Liberians lost their lives with estimated billions of United States Dollars’ worth of properties destroyed including businesses and banks.

As if that was not enough, just when the country began to pick up its pieces on the path to economic recovery, it was hit by the deadly EBOLA virus reversing nearly every post-war gain made during Mrs. Ellen Johnson Sirleaf’s second term.

Liberia was yet to recover when the global pandemic struck. COVID-19 though had a global impact but like many poor and underdeveloped countries, Liberia suffered and is still struggling with the aftermath of the virus-its economic impacts.

Despite these challenges, the country remained focused on its infant democratic path with general and presidential elections scheduled for later this year.

It is against this backdrop that one would question the rationale behind the smuggling of sophisticated military weapons mainly assault rifles into a country that has gone through a lot.

Security forces have already identified one Boy Benjamin Baker as the shipper based in the United States and arrested some individuals linked with the shipment, including a broker.

At this stage, there have been no further reports or names of individuals closely connected to or financing these shipments, which security sources say have been sneaking out of the port for over a year now. This is supported by Inspector General Patrick Sudue’s comment that there appear to be some missing rifles because some ammunition seized cannot match rifles currently in their possession.

This has led to heads scratching and fingers pointing depending on which conspiracy theory one is listening to. But the bottom line is if citizens were already harboring fears ahead of the pending elections, those fears have been heightened.

Hence the need for thorough investigation with credible institutions such as the Liberia Bar Association, Independent Human Rights Commission and international partners among others serving as observers through these investigations remains key to the integrity of the outcome and subsequent prosecution of individuals involved.

Another critical area to look at as security forces investigate the arms cache is the illegal smuggling ongoing at the country’s main port since the process of Reshipment Destination Inspection (PDI) was canceled replacing same with Destination Inspection.

Recently, USD100 Million worth of cocaine was discovered in TRH Trading Company container at a rented warehouse off the Japanese Highway in Tonpoe Village. The container was allowed to leave the port for days before the subsequent discovery of the contrite-banned substance was made.

Reports that these crates loaded with sophisticated assault rifles have been sneaking out of the port under the noise of destination inspectors speak volumes of the entire process and the company handling such operation.

The latest report of arms smuggling at the port only demonstrates how criminals are taking advantage of the destination inspection process which at this stage seems too weak, exposing the country to so many dangerous shipments being let out.

Though the motive behind the arms and ammunition shipment remained unknown, it doesn’t take a magician to guess the intent, especially at a time the country is headed to its fourth democratic election, where the stakes are hard.

We don’t know who is behind the supply of these weapons. This is where the professionalism of the joint security forces headed by the Liberia National Police comes into being.

And that is why it is important that the relevant groups mentioned above be invited to witness the ongoing investigation for transparency.

Citizens demand urgent probe

Starts from back page

of those interviewed in the Duala Market, said news about the discovery of the arms and ammunition was troubling. She said this happened at a time Liberians are about to go to elections.

“When I heard about the arrest and later saw the guns on Facebook, fear grabbed me, because the guns remind me about the war that was fought in this country,” she said.

“We can’t afford to go back to the dark days, we have had enough, the 14 years of fighting we did in this country, nothing has changed,” Elizabeth added.

“We want our government to

on the United States government to help the Government of Liberia in the ongoing investigation to bring the culprit to book.

“We can’t be assured that our government alone is capable of bringing those behind shipping of guns to book due to the number of things they have investigated in this country,” said Victoria.

She argued that since the Coalition for Democratic Change (CDC) government took state power, not a single investigation has been concluded.

“We can’t rely on these people, they’re aware of all the things that are happening in this country.”

Last week, the joint security



make sure those behind this face the weight of the law,” she added.

Also speaking to this paper, a resident of Capitol Bye-pass, Amos Wesseh, extolled the government through the joint security forces for their efforts to confiscate the arms and ammunition at the Freeport of Monrovia.

“Imagine if the joint security was not that smart enough what would have happened to us in this country. These things [that are] happening ... [remind us] of what we went through some years back,” he said.

Madam Victoria Wleh, also speaking to our reporter, called

and intelligence forces identified the ringleader of the smuggling operation as Boye Benjamin Baker, a Liberian who lives in Texas, United States of America.

Barbara Debah, a resident of the Old Road community, and another lady only identified as Melvina were named as Baker’s accomplices.

The former was the designated recipient of the consignment while the latter was the clearing officer.

Some of the arms include M16 and AK47. According to the police, about 450 machine guns were seized at the Freeport of Monrovia, including other areas of Montserrado County.

Nagbe urges payment

Starts from page 6

shaped the RAL from where it was,” said Tokpah.

“It is a time to reflect on the curve of a common journey and to commit to bringing our collective visions, talents, and diversity of experience and perspective to bear in new and innovative ways,” he noted.

The RAL president reminded his colleagues of the

challenges they will face in the elections period, recounting a series of brutalities faced by many journalists in the past.

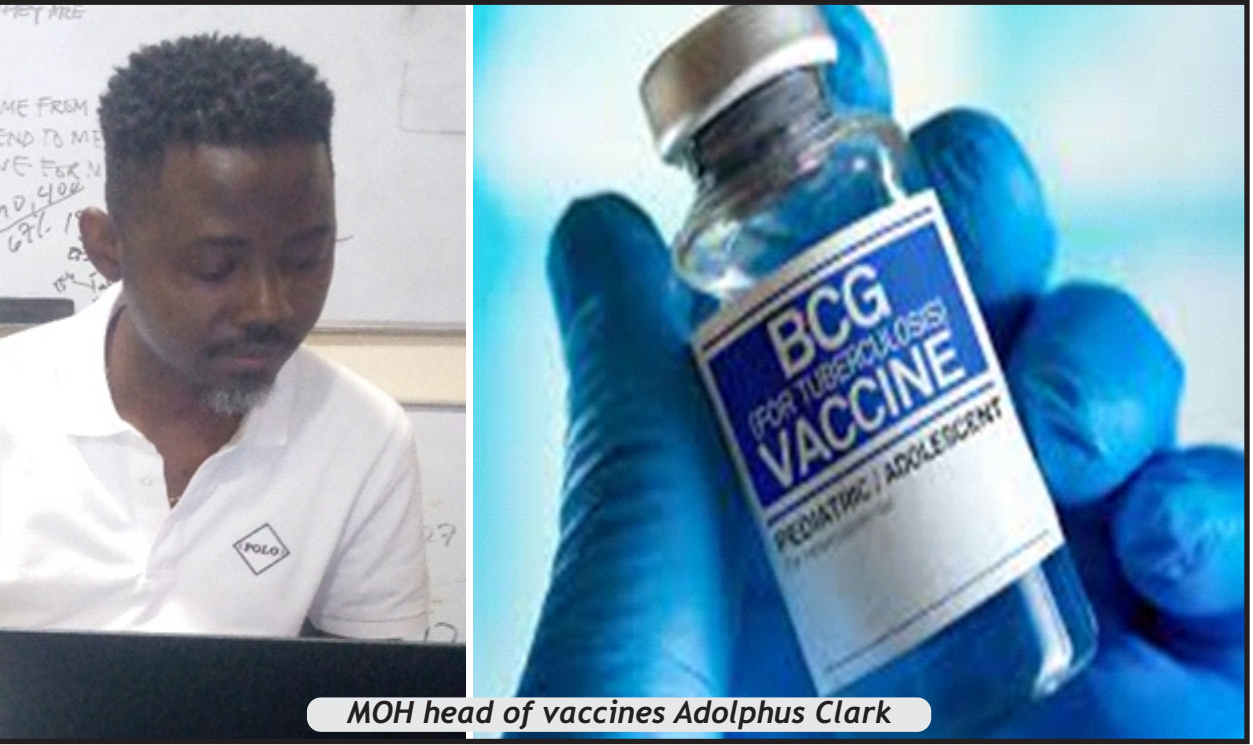
However, Mr. Tokpan suggested that it’s imperative for reporters to also do their work with caution and uphold ethical standards and observe their terrain as they move on.

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Liberia: Newborn babies at risk?

By Bridgett Milton

Reports from several hospitals in the country have revealed the shortage of Bacillus Calmette Guérin (BCG) vaccine, which is given to lack of the vaccine at major health centers in the city. At the ELWA Hospital, health authorities told the New Dawn that they have been out of the BCG vaccine for four to five months. Not She further explained that JFK has all the vaccines that babies are to take, adding that they have vaccine to serve up to 400 children. She noted that each bottle of BCG vaccine can serve about 10 children, and



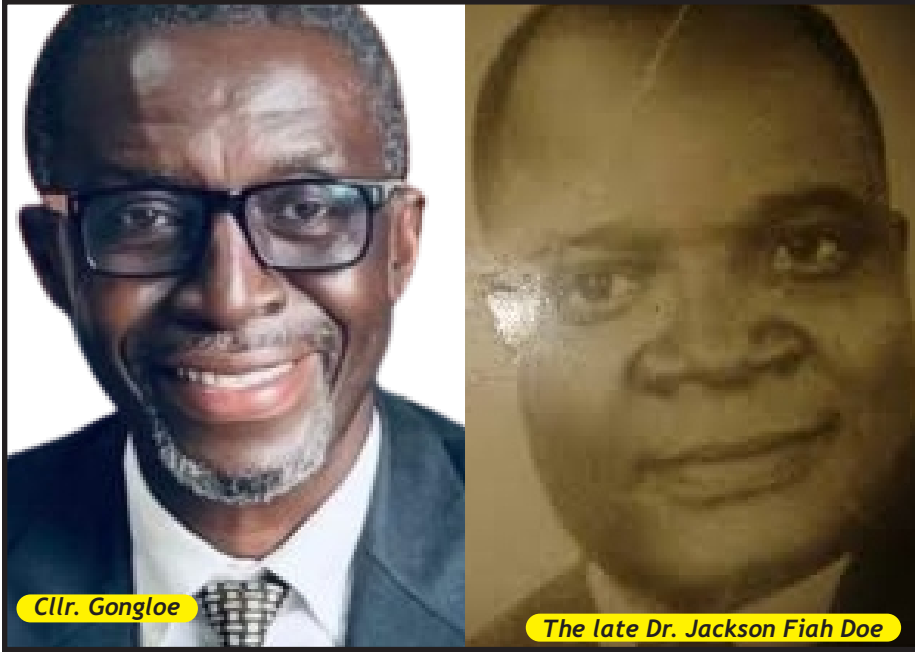
MOH head of vaccines Adolphus Clark

babies in the first week of births. But health authorities have debunked their claims saying the vaccine is in country. BCG vaccine is primarily used against tuberculosis but is recommended for babies as soon after birth. But in Liberia parents will have to wait for days if not weeks to secure the vaccine for their newborn. Scores of parents told the New Dawn last week that they were being turned away from hospitals as health practitioners claimed the vaccine was not available at the hospitals they visited- mostly privates. A lady who gave birth at the ELWA hospital last month around the festive season, panicked after being told by health workers that the BCG vaccine was not available at the hospital and that it is scarce in the country. Her fears heightened when told by another baby mother that this important vaccine for babies was not in the country. After days of asking here and there, she was able to locate the vaccine at the New Georgia Health Center, where many mothers had rushed their newborn babies to a shot. A tour of some major hospitals in Monrovia confirmed the absence of the vaccine as newborn babies' mothers were told to check back. Scores of new mothers who interacted with this paper during our tour of hospitals expressed concerns over the only that but authorities there said they have been short of other vaccines mainly for children. The ELWA Hospital administration said they have placed several calls to the Montserrado Health Office but were told that the vaccine is not in the country. At the Redemption Hospital on the Bushrod Island, health authorities there said they could not speak to the issue but redirected our reporter to the Ministry of Health. At the Catholic Hospital the administration also declined to comment but few health workers who spoke on the condition of anonymity told this paper that the hospital has been out of the vaccine for two months. At the John F. Kennedy hospital, our reporter saw several babies' mothers leaving the hospital compound without their babies being vaccinated. According to some of the mothers who spoke to this paper, they were informed by nurses to check back the next day. When this paper contacted the JFK administration, the head vaccinator who declined to mention her name said JFK has the vaccine in stock, but the mothers were being turned away because Thursday is not a vaccination day at the hospital. therefore they have days to serve. When this paper contacted the Ministry of Health, the head of vaccination at the Ministry Mr. Adolphus Clark said there is no shortage of BCG in the country. He went on further to state that the Ministry of Health was expecting 10,000 doses of BCG in the country on Monday January 9th. He said the consignment will serve the country for a longer period. Told that some hospitals are claiming they don't have the vaccine, he said there is a procedure at the ministry of health when it comes to vaccines distribution in the country." When any hospital is short on vaccine they have to request for supplies and when they request it is given" Clark added. Mr. Clark further explained that there are procedures in requesting the vaccines, urging authorities of health facilities to follow what he called lead time, by communicating with their respective county health officers on time. He also emphasized the importance of accountability in the supply, calling on health authorities to account for doses received during their request for additional doses. When health workers at the ELWA hospital were told that the Ministry of Health is saying that the BCG vaccine is in town, they were cynical, saying "if they say it is here, then let them give us just two bottles."

Gongloe to fulfil Jackson F. Doe's dream

By Thomas Domah/
Nimba County

residential hopeful Cllr. Tiawan Saye Gongloe says he is on a mission to fulfil the dream of late statesman Dr. Jackson Fiah Doe, who was murdered during the Liberian Civil War. He spoke in Zuatuo Town, Electoral District Six in Nimba County during the launch of the Isaac and Anna Karto Foundation in memory of the Isaac Gonwokay Karto, Sr and Ma-Anna Yormie Karto, the coupled, both educators, were also killed in the civil war. The late Dr. Doe was a fearless opponent and critic of the regime of slain President Samuel Kanyon Doe (no relations) that he challenged at the ballot box in 1985. He was standard bearer of the Liberia Action Party (LAP) that is believed to have won majority votes against the former army officer turned despotic politician, but the elections were rigged, leaving former F. Doe's quest to deliver good governance, was never achieved as he was thrown in prison and subsequently murdered. He expressed disappointment in the Weah administration and noted that Liberians made a mistake in electing President Weah, who is seeking a second term. He urged Liberians not to repeat similar mistake in the upcoming elections in October because Liberia is the oldest country in Africa, but still lags behind developmentally. Cllr. Gongloe, who is former president of the Liberia National Bar Association and current Standard Bearer of the Liberian People Party (LPP) named Ghana, Nigeria, Ivory Coast, as among countries far progressing than Liberia though they gained independence in the 50s and 60s. According to him, such achievements were possible because citizens of those countries agreed to combat corruption in all sectors. He promised to announce his salary if elected President, as a means of demonstrating his



Cllr. Gongloe

The late Dr. Jackson Fiah Doe

President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, who won a senatorial seat in Montserrado County, refusing to go the senate. Cllr. Gongloe, who has consistently criticized the Weah administration for widespread corruption, said the late Jackson commitment to fighting corruption in the public sector. Gongloe lamented that most people in government are corrupt, but nothing is being done to bring them to book, which is creating problems for the country. **Editing by Jonathan Browne**

'A Great Feat for Female

Starts from page 7

C-Win, the award-winning journalist is also praised for her past role in serving with credibility and integrity as Chairperson of the Membership Committee of the Press Union of Liberia (PUL), an Executive Committee whose leadership functions has been deeply eroded and desecrated under the PUL former leadership of Charles Coffey and his accomplice Daniel Nyakonah since 2019. Moreover, Team Kanubah hails Mrs Winnie Saywah Jimmy for her ongoing leadership role as Vice President of the Female Journalist Association of Liberia (FeJAL), coupled with her university education in English Literature and a credential in Mass Communication. C-Win, is proud to publicly declare a living testament to what a woman can truly achieve with hard work, dedication and professionalism - thanks to the years of growth and mentorship under the late Managing Editor of The Inquirer Newspaper, Phillip N. Wesseh. C-Win is further convinced of the suitability of C-Win to carry on where prolific journalist Wesseh left and to expand the digital presence and monetary position of The Inquirer Newspaper while improving the service of work conditions of journalists and media workers at *The Inquirer Newspaper*.

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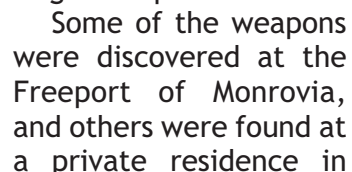
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-Following the discovery of weapons

Last week, security forces announced an investigation into the discovery of weapons at the Freeport of

But they also urged that the



Madam Elizabeth Thomas, one

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 10



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